



CONNECTICUT FAMILY SUPPORT COUNCIL

ANNUAL RETREAT: MANCHESTER COMMUNITY COLLEGE

Minutes: September 8, 2011

DRAFT

In attendance:

Robyn Trowbridge, *Co-Chair*, Lisa Sheppard, *Co-Chair*, Terry Cote, Jim McGaughey, Cathy Adamczyk, Marie Bennett, Thomas Brooks, Sylvia Gafford-Alexander, Tesha Imperati, Mona Tremblay, Ann Gionet, Jennifer Carroll, April Dipollina, Colleen Hayles, Sharon Dexler, Alice Buttwell

Call to Order: 9:55 a.m. by Co-Chairs Robyn Trowbridge & Lisa Sheppard

Guests:

George Ducharme, Donna Franchini, Kathy Whitbread

Host Welcome – George Ducharme

Mr. Ducharme volunteers as the Director for the Institute on Disability and Community Inclusion located at Manchester Community College. He works with families and individuals about community life for individuals with a disability. He expressed that he works with people, not on people and he works with them. On October 7, 2011, the dedication of a community garden will be held here at Manchester. The community garden is dedicated to two students who passed away. The raised bed garden that the community is part of has an accessible space called the Gathering Space. George expressed that the best we can do is to support each other naturally – focus on how can people get together as a community. Co-chairs and committee thanked George for the free utilization of this space for our annual retreat.

Review of By-Laws Amendment and Vote

Co-chair Robyn Trowbridge asked that a motion be made to vote on the amendment and changes in the by-laws (May 6th). Discussion occurred. It was raised that the changes in the by-laws were not being made consistent. A decision was made to table the approval of the by-laws pending the needed changes (tracking in document) to occur, the changes that would be made needed to be clearly shown in the document and posted. Motion to table to review of by-laws amendment made by Sharon Dexler and seconded by Terry Cote. Executive committee will make the changes to the document. 30-day notice will be given. Voting on the changes will occur at the November 2011 meeting. Copies will be made and emailed to the membership and posted on the website.

DDS Process and Procedures for Tele-Conferencing

Sharon Dexler, new member Office of the Public Advocate made a motion to table this discussion to the next meeting. Sylvia Gafford-Alexander seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Report from the Nominating Committee and Slate

Jen Carroll chaired the Committee (Jen Carroll, Mona Tremblay, Terry Cote) opened to members from the floor. No nominations made. Sylvia Gafford-Alexander motioned to close the nomination. Move the slate forward from the nominating committee. Robyn Trowbridge and Lisa Sheppard co-chairs. Marie Bennett, secretary.

Robyn Trowbridge discussed her length of stay on the Council. There was discussion of a fourth executive committee position.

Election of Officers: All voted in favor of slate presented.

Survey of Members

Co-chair Lisa Sheppard distributed a copy of the survey of the membership – due back to her by September 15, 2011. This was also emailed to members. Jen Carroll discussed the memo from DDS Commissioner Terry Macy – this memo asked for FSC input into DDSD Five Year Plan. Jen Carroll distributed and emailed survey to membership to obtain council's input into the Five Year Plan. The Commissioner will be attending our October meeting.

Announcements

- Jim McGaughey – information will be gathered from families regarding towns' responsiveness to Hurricane Irene.
- Bureau of Special Education
 - copies of newest consultants' assignments distributed
 - new PPT letter has been developed
 - Revision of special education laws, October 4th – Bureau of Teaching and Learning
- Sylvia Gafford-Alexander – Children's Trust fund
- Tesha Imperati: CT Family Support Network
 - Conference on September 21, 2011 / One Voice Conference
 - 150 families signed up
 - 45 professional on waiting list
 - Two events
 - September 2011 – LOB – Kid's Count
 - September 15, 2011 – Children in the recession task force
- April Dipollina – Harkness Council
 - Advisory Council to Harkness is to have a representative on this council
- Ann Gionet --Public Health
 - Sickle Cell awareness month
 - Autistic grant \$300,000 a year with CT State Plan with the Center for Excellence

Formal meeting adjournment at 11:30 a.m.

Path Process: (11:30 – 2:00 – working lunch). Final outcome will be posted when reformatted from the presentation.

Next Meeting: October 13, 2011, 10:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Wallingford Regional Office, Conference Room A

Minutes recorded by Marie Bennett - Secretary